



Slough Borough Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

V. A. T. SPONG,

M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Lond.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.)

For the Year 1941

including the

Annual Report of the Chief
Sanitary Inspector,

JOHN DEMPSEY, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.

Members of the Health and Sanitation Committee.

COUNCILLOR A. DARVILL (*Chairman*).

COUNCILLOR F. H. MARSHALL (*Vice-Chairman*).

ALDERMAN W. J. TEMPLEMAN (died January 1941).

COUNCILLOR R. C. ABBOTT.

COUNCILLOR H. B. BROWN (resigned April 1941).

COUNCILLOR W. H. COOTE.

COUNCILLOR MISS R. HARRISON.

COUNCILLOR C. E. HARVEY.

COUNCILLOR P. LIGHTFOOT.

COUNCILLOR E. W. LOBJOIT.

COUNCILLOR A. S. DIXON.

(*vice* Alderman Templeman).

COUNCILLOR G. BAILEY (*vice* Councillor Brown).

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1941, which, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, has been restricted to essential matters, more particularly the compilation of figures for record purposes. The Minister has also drawn attention to the importance, on grounds of national security, of not publishing any figures, from which the local population may be deduced. Such figures in this report are therefore strictly confidential to members of the Council and the Government departments concerned.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate Mid-Year 1941) 65,350

Live Births.

TOTAL	1085	Male	563	Female	522	
Legitimate	1025	„	531	„	494	
Illegitimate	60	„	32	„	28	
Birth rate per 1000 population		.....	.....	.....	.....	16.6
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	.....	14.2

Still Births.

TOTAL	33	Male	12	Female	21	
Legitimate	28	„	10	„	18	
Illegitimate	5	„	2	„	3	
Still-birth rate per 1000 population		.....	.....	.....	.....	0.5
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	.....	0.5

Deaths.

TOTAL	578	Male	308	Female	270	
Death rate per 1000 population		.....	.....	.....	.....	8.8
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	.....	12.9

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth—

(a) From Sepsis	.....	.....	.....	.....	0
(b) From other causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	6

Death rates from Puerperal causes per 1000 total Births (i.e. Live and Still Births)—

(a) From Sepsis	.....	.....	0	National rate	0.48
(b) From other causes	.....	.....	5.36	National rate	1.75
(c) TOTAL	.....	.....	5.36	National rate	2.23

Death of Infants under one year of age—

TOTAL	52	Male	34	Female	18
Legitimate	50	„	34	„	16
Illegitimate	2	„	0	„	2

Death rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1000 Live Births	47.9
National rate " " 	59.0
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Births	47.78
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Births	33.3

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—

TOTAL	1	Male	0	Female	1
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Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—

TOTAL	5	Male	2	Female	3
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Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2)—

TOTAL	7	Male	6	Female	1
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Causes of Death.

		Male	Female
ALL CAUSES		308	270
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0
2	Measles	0	1
3	Scarlet fever	0	0
4	Whooping Cough	2	3
5	Diphtheria	3	1
6	Influenza	4	2
7	Encephalitis lethargica	0	0
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	1	3
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	14	18
10	Other Tuberculosis diseases	4	6
11	Syphilitic diseases	1	0
12	Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis	3	1
13	Cancer, malignant disease	38	39
14	Diabetes	2	1
15	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	15	19
16	Heart disease	66	62
17	Other circulatory diseases	6	13
18	Bronchitis	13	11
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	27	23
20	Other respiratory diseases	11	6
21	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	7	0
22	Diarrhœa, etc (under 2 years)	6	1
23	Appendicitis	2	0
24	Other digestive diseases	3	5
25	Acute and chronic nephritis	5	11
26	Puerperal sepsis	0	0
27	Other maternal causes	0	6
28	Premature birth	13	3
29	Congenital malformations, birth diseases	6	8
30	Road Traffic Accidents	12	3
31	Suicide	1	0
32	Other violence	18	4
33	All other causes	25	20

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (including Tuberculosis) during 1941.

TABLE I.

Showing cases notified during 1941, numbers admitted to Hospital and Deaths, also notifications for years 1929 - 1940.

	Notified Cases 1941	Cases admitted to Hosp.	Total Deaths	Population in thousands											
				60	53	50	48	44	41	38	36	35	33	26	18
				1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	80	62	—	72	60	130	100	36	70	94	61	65	62	49	39
Diphtheria	38	38	4	91	78	57	5	2	26	10	6	7	37	77	56
Enteric Fever	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	1	2	1
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	13	11	—	15	33	12	14	8	3	6	2	7	5	3	1
Pneumonia	26	5	2	34	23	36	33	31	12	23	29	18	25	8	22
Erysipelas	28	6	—	22	26	33	16	9	5	13	17	15	8	7	9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	—	3	1	—	—
Measles	258*	6	1	998*											
Whooping Cough	224*	24	5	64*											
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	10	9	4	18	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	28	28	3	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Notifiable from October 23rd, 1939.

TABLE II.

Showing Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	13	6	11	8	11	6	8	4	4	8	—	1
Diphtheria	7	12	5	2	—	2	2	2	4	—	1	1
Pneumonia	2	3	3	6	4	—	—	1	1	1	3	2
Erysipelas	5	2	3	2	4	4	2	1	—	2	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	—	1	1	—	2	—	2	3	1	—
Measles	5	44	95	36	47	19	9	1	1	—	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	3	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	2	1	—
Whooping Cough	10	18	49	22	26	32	22	12	15	5	10	3
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	7	15	1	2	2	—

TABLE III.

Showing Incidence in Wards of Borough.

Estimated Population	Burnham	Central	Chalvey	Farnham	Langley	Stoke	Upton	
Scarlet Fever	12	16	14	14	6	15	3	—
Diphtheria	4	—	1	23	1	8	1	—
Pneumonia	2	8	1	3	4	2	3	3*
Erysipelas	6	4	6	2	4	5	1	—
Puerperal Fever	2	2	1	4	—	3	—	1*
Tuberculosis	9	12	4	10	2	8	—	1*
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	1	1	2	—	1	2	1*
Poliomyelitis	6	3	4	11	1	2	1	—

* Occurred in Slough Institution or Emergency Hospital.

TABLE IV.

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE SHOWING NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

NEW CASES.

Primary Notifications. From Death Returns.

DEATHS.

Age Periods	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 -	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
5 -	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	2
15 -	5	7	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	1	—	1
25 -	4	6	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	7	—	1
35 -	4	1	—	—	3	2	—	—	6	4	—	—
45 -	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
55 -	3	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	3	1	—
65 up-	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
TOTAL	21	21	2	2	5	9	3	3	14	18	4	6

Death rate from Tuberculosis 0.64 per 1000

It is satisfactory to note that in this, the third year of war, the general health of the district remains good.

A study of the Vital Statistics shows that, apart from the deaths due to Puerperal Causes, the figures compare favourably with the National Rates, which, from the national standpoint, are in themselves very satisfactory.

The birth rate was 16.6 per 1000 compared with 18.95 in 1940 and 19.3 in 1939. The corresponding figures for England and Wales being 14.2, 14.6 and 15.0.

Still births comprised 2.9% of the total births, the National figure being 3.5%.

In 1941 the Death rate was 8.8, the rates for 1940 and 1939 being 9.89 and 8.94. The corresponding National rates being 12.9, 14.3 and 12.1.

The Infant Mortality rate was 47.9, compared with 46.8 and 47.3 in 1940 and 1939. The rates for England and Wales being 59, 55 and 50.

The Maternal Mortality rate for 1941 was 5.36 per 1000 total births compared with 3.38 in 1940 and 2.83 in 1939. The corresponding figures for England and Wales being 2.23, 2.16 and 2.82. Out of 1,118 births a toll of 6 maternal deaths was exacted. All were due to causes other than sepsis.

The causes of death and ages according to the Death Certificates were as follows:

In Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London. Age 40. Paralytic Ileus following Caesarian Section.

In Albert House. Age 29. Uraemia, Bright's Disease and Pregnancy.

In King Edward VII Hospital Windsor—

Age 28. Paralytic Ileus following Caesarian Section for Obstructed Labour.

Age 25. Shock following operation for spontaneous rupture of the Uterus.

Age 26. Excessive blood loss and shock following birth of child.

Age 23. Shock, prolonged labour and forceps delivery, intra-partum sepsis.

Infectious Diseases.

The following table shows the incidence of **Scarlet Fever** and **Diphtheria** per 1000 population of Slough and England and Wales for the years 1932 - 1941.

Year	DIPHTHERIA		SCARLET FEVER	
	Slough	E. & W.	Slough	E. & W.
1932	0.19	1.1	1.5	3.7
1933	0.16	1.2	1.6	3.1
1934	0.26	1.6	2.4	2.1
1935	0.60	1.6	1.7	2.9
1936	0.04	1.39	0.8	2.53
1937	0.10	1.49	2.0	2.53
1938	1.13	1.6	2.5	2.5
1939	1.4	1.14	1.1	1.89
1940	1.5	1.16	1.18	1.83
1941	0.58	1.25	1.22	1.47

The rates for the other commoner infectious diseases for 1940 and 1941 were as follows:

	1940		1941	
	Slough	E. & W.	Slough	E. & W.
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	0.29	0.32	0.13	0.25
Erysipelas	0.36	0.33	0.43	0.30
Measles	16.4	10.24	3.9	10.33
Whooping Cough	1.05	1.34	3.4	4.39

38 cases of Diphtheria were notified compared with 91 the previous year; approximately two-thirds were notified during the first quarter.

In the latter part of 1940, immunisation of the school children against Diphtheria was commenced, and during that year 922 children were treated. An intensive campaign was carried out during the summer of 1941, and by September all school children whose parents were willing had been immunised.

In all 5,594 school children have now been protected, each child receiving 2 injections of Alum Precipitated Toxoid at an interval of one month.

The effect of this campaign is reflected in the incidence of Diphtheria since its completion. During the last quarter of 1941, only two cases were notified, one of these was an adult and the other a child under school age who had not been immunised, and it is interesting to note that up to the time of writing—June 1942—no case of Diphtheria has been notified in the Borough since December 1941.

Approximately 87.3% of the school children in the Borough have now been immunised, the corresponding figure for children under five being 17.4%.

By arrangement with the County Council, as the Borough Council is not a "Welfare Authority," the immunisation of children under five is carried out by the Medical Officers of the County Council's staff at the Welfare Centres. The Borough Council have, however, provided two Clinics weekly at the Health Centre, Burlington Avenue, at which any child may attend for immunisation. The Clinics are held on Tuesdays, at 10.15 a.m., and Fridays, at 2.15 p.m., and are attended by the Borough Council's Medical Officers.

4 deaths were recorded from Diphtheria, 2 of which were members of one family. None had been afforded protection against Diphtheria by immunisation.

Infantile Paralysis.

On 20th June, a case of Infantile Paralysis in a child under school age was notified in the Farnham Ward of Slough, this was followed by a second case on the 7th July—a boy aged 11 residing in the same Ward.

On the 15th July a case from the Burnham Ward was admitted to Hospital. This was followed by a third case from the Farnham Ward on the 17th. Between July 18th and 22nd three further cases occurred in the Burnham Ward, in addition to one from Stoke Poges on the 18th and one from Taplow on the 24th July. All but the first case were children of school age.

On the 26th July they were seen by Dr. J. R. Hutchinson, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, and by Dr. T. M. Scott, who had been in this country since May with the Harvard Unit of the American Red Cross, the Unit having been recently established in this country for the study of communicable diseases of all sorts which may occur during the war.

These cases were the forerunners of an outbreak which involved the whole of the South Bucks area and continued until November. In all 45 definite cases were admitted to Hospital.

28 were from the Borough, 17 from the Eton Rural District, and 1 from the Urban District of Eton. The cases were widely distributed. No ward of the Borough escaped, and four Parishes in the Rural District were involved. This scattered distribution is a feature of outbreaks of this disease.

The date of occurrence and the incidence in the various Wards of the Borough and in the rest of the South Bucks area is set out below.

Week Ending

July 19th.—2 cases each in Burnham and Farnham Wards of Slough and 1 in Stoke Poges.

July 26th.—2 cases in the Burnham Ward and 1 in Taplow.

August 2nd.—1 case in Central, Chalvey and Langley Wards, 2 in the Farnham Ward. 8 in Stoke Poges.

August 9th.—One case each in Burnham, Farnham and Upton Wards.

August 16th.—1 case in Burnham and Central Wards, 2 in Chalvey Ward. 1 in Stoke Poges and 1 in Datchet.

August 23rd.—1 case in Central and Chalvey Wards and 2 in Farnham Ward. 2 in Stoke Poges.

August 30th.—1 case in Stoke Poges and 1 in the Eton Urban district.

6th and 13th September.—Nil.

20th September.—1 in the Stoke Ward of Slough.

27th September.—Nil.

4th October.—1 case in the Farnham Ward.

11th October.—1 case in the Parish of Burnham.

18th October.—1 case in the Farnham Ward and 1 in the Parish of Burnham.

25th October, 1st and 8th November.—No cases.

15th November.—1 in the Farnham Ward.

22nd November.—1 in the Farnham Ward.

The Ages and Sex were as follows.

	Male	Female	Total
Under 5	5	2	7
Between 5 and 14	22	10	32
Between 15 and 24	2	2	4
Between 25 and 30	1	1	2

Such a high proportion of Males to Females—2 to 1—is unusual, although most epidemics show a slightly greater proportion of Males.

28 school children and 13 different schools were involved. In the following schools there was one case each: Burnham, Chalvey, Elliman Avenue, Farnham Infants, Farnham Royal, Manor Park Senior, Slough High School for Girls and St. Leonard's. In Stoke Poges School there were 9 cases, in Cippenham Infants 4, in Montem 3, and in Cippenham Mixed and St. Joseph's 2 each.

Of the 45 cases, 10 were non-paralytic; of the 35 with paralysis, 15 had lesions confined to the cranial nerves, all but one of which made complete recoveries. 3 cases, all of which proved fatal, had paralysis of the cranial nerves and both upper and lower limbs; 1 had paralysis of the lower limbs and spine and a facial paralysis and has made a partial recovery. 2 had paralysis confined to one upper limb and 3 to one lower limb; in 4, both lower limbs were involved and 7 had paralysis of both lower limbs and one upper limb.

Of the 35 paralytic cases, 3 proved fatal, and of the remaining 32, 13 required subsequent orthopædic treatment, which was carried out at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital through the kind co-operation of the Emergency Medical Service.

In only 4 instances was more than one member of a household affected, and in these there were two cases each. Of the 3 fatal cases, 2 were unfortunately brothers; all died within a week of the onset, and in one an artificial respirator had to be used, but without success. The respirator is of the "Both" type and was presented to the Eton Joint Isolation Hospital by Lord Nuffield.

Although much was learnt regarding the clinical aspects of the disease, the outbreak did not bring to light any further evidence as to the exact mode of spread.

The tendency towards some grouping of cases in the Cippenham and Stoke Poges districts and the multiple cases in 4 households suggests infection from case to case, or by "carriers," but the closest investigation failed to reveal definite and conclusive evidence of this.

In two instances there were grounds for suspecting the source of infection to be healthy contact carriers; on the other hand, isolated cases occurred throughout the areas without any apparent connection with other cases. In fact, if a map of the district is studied on which the cases are plotted, apart from some grouping in the Stoke Poges and Cippenham districts, the cases are seen to be scattered quite indiscriminately.

No article of food or drink could be incriminated. Flies were somewhat prevalent during the summer, which, except for a period during June and the first part of July, was not unduly warm or sunny.

During the outbreak, the intermingling and congregation of children was prevented as far as possible by the closure of schools in the affected areas and by the closure of the cinemas to the children, etc.

At the same time as the outbreak in the South Bucks area, a number of cases occurred in the adjacent district of Windsor and East Berkshire.

10 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis were notified. 8 were admitted to the Cippenham Isolation Hospital and 1 to the Windsor Hospital. 4 proved fatal—2 dying at the Cippenham Isolation Hospital, 1 at Windsor and 1 at home.

1 case of Paratyphoid B. Fever occurred in a child, aged 6, but the source of infection could not be discovered.

Whooping Cough was somewhat prevalent—244 cases being notified, with 5 deaths. 24 were admitted to Hospital.

Measles was less prevalent — 258 cases being notified, as compared with 998 the previous year. 1 proved fatal. 6 were admitted to Hospital.

By arrangement with the Slough Nursing Association, all notified cases of Measles and Whooping Cough are visited by Nurses from the Association—an arrangement which has proved of great assistance.

The Practitioners have been notified that cases of Whooping Cough and Measles requiring hospital treatment can be admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

Mothers who so desire may have their children inoculated against Whooping Cough on payment of the cost of the material at the Immunisation Clinics referred to above.

During the year the following specimens were examined at the Town Hall Laboratory.

For Diphtheria Bacilli	.....	.....	.....	509
For Hæmolytic Streptococci	.....	.....	.....	13
For Vincent's Angina	.....	.....	.....	5
For Meningococci	.....	.....	.....	3
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	.....	.....	.....	245
Blood for Widal	.....	.....	.....	7
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	.....	.....	.....	6
Milk—				
(a) Pasteurised Milk	.....	.....	.....	16
(b) Phosphatase Test	.....	.....	.....	7
(c) Fat Content	.....	.....	.....	8
Water—				
(a) Domestic	.....	.....	.....	12
(b) Swimming Pools	.....	.....	.....	3

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Owing to Slough being designated a Reception Area under the official evacuation scheme, and the duties of Billëting Officers being allocated to the Public Health Staff, it has not been possible to carry on with all the usual routine work of the sanitary department. Every effort, however, has been made to carry on with the essential services in the interests of Public Health. At the end of September a whole-time Billëting Officer was appointed, which enabled the Department to concentrate on their normal Public Health Duties.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Removal and Disposal.

Owing to labour and transport difficulties, it has not been possible to maintain a regular weekly collection of house refuse, but every effort has been made to effect a collection as frequently as possible beyond this period. Five 15 cubic yard petrol driven vehicles, with movable floors and rear loading, and one 4 cubic yard horse drawn vehicle, are employed in this work, and it has been most difficult to have essential repairs carried out, where necessary, within a reasonable period, and this factor has had a decided bearing on the irregularity of collection in some instances. There are approximately 16,900 houses, shops and factories on the refuse book, there being little alteration from the previous year.

A charge is made for the removal of trade refuse where it exceeds the amount of one bin per week. The revenue derived from this source, compared with the preceding year, is as follows:-

	1940.	1941.
Trade Refuse Revenue	£528 6s. 0d.	£999 8s. 1d.

Arrangements are still in force whereby tradesmen can remove their own refuse to the tip or destructor, according to the nature of the refuse, and a charge of 2s. per ton is made, the revenue from this source being £4 12s. 6d.

	1940.	1941.
No. of calls made	894,756	672,343
No. of tons collected	9,272 tons	10,400 tons
Tons disposed of by burning	8,572 tons	8,816 tons
Tons disposed of by tipping	700 tons	1,584 tons

Waste Paper.

The Council is still selling all waste paper to Paper Mills at the controlled price fixed by the Ministry, and during the year 395 tons 10 cwts. 86 lbs. were collected and baled, the revenue being £2,115 3s. 2d. Efforts have been made to increase the salvage of waste paper by means of appeals in the local press, delivery of handbills to householders, and display of posters on

the refuse vehicles, but, in spite of this, a large amount of paper is still being deposited in the dustbins. It is gratifying, however, to record that there is an increase of 40 tons over the preceding year, and an increase of over £700 in revenue, this increase is accounted for by the rise in the price of paper, plus the increase in amount collected.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

At the end of the year there were 8 wholesale producers and 38 Retail Purveyors of milk on the register and periodic inspections of these premises were carried out.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, the following licences were issued:-

Dealers' Licences to sell T.T. Milk	2
Pasteurisers' Licences	2
Dealers' Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	Nil
Supplementary Licences to sell T.T. Milk	2

During the year sixteen samples were submitted for analysis, i.e., bacterial count and phosphatase test, and all were found to be satisfactory.

(b) Meat and Food Inspection.

Under the Government Control Scheme there are only two slaughterhouses in commission, and under the Regional Scheme the meat derived therefrom supplies Slough, part of Eton Rural and Windsor districts. Although the number of slaughterhouses has been reduced from nine to two, the work entailed in supervision and inspection has increased very considerably, and, in order to facilitate the clearing and distribution of the meat, the Inspector is often on duty before 7 a.m. and sometimes until midnight, and on Sundays.

During the year 785 inspections of slaughterhouses, food shops and markets have been made, and approximately 25 tons of meat and other foodstuffs have been condemned as being unfit for human consumption. As far as practicable, this was utilised as salvage.

The number of animals inspected during the year was 2,130 oxen, 1,019 cows, 10,894 sheep, 10,858 pigs and 1,645 calves. Total inspected — 26,546 carcasses.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Six complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, and have received attention; these were all in respect of insufficient sanitary conveniences.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are five factory and fifteen retail bakehouses on the register, and these have been kept in a cleanly and satisfactory condition, the limewashing of same being carried out twice yearly.

NOTICES ISSUED AND COMPLIED WITH.

During this period 253 notices were issued in respect of general repairs and 111 notices were complied with.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. A. T. SPONG,

Medical Officer of Health.

